

Steele, The American Legion, both of Washington, D.C.; and Edward Powers, HOPE Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 160 public bills, H.R. 3273–3432; and 18 resolutions, H.J. Res. 62; H. Con. Res. 67–69; and H. Res. 392–405 were introduced. **Pages H5762–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5775–77**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 9, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–235);

H.R. 1992, to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–236);

H.R. 3116, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program (H. Rept. 114–237);

H.R. 1759, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–238, Part 1); and

H.R. 1759, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–238, Part 2). **Page H5762**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5595**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5605**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H5605, H5653**

VA Accountability Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 1994, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 256 yeas to 170 nays, Roll No. 489.

Pages H5653–40, H5650–53

Rejected the Takano motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 241 noes, Roll No. 488. **Pages H5651–53**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans Affairs now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H5631**

Agreed to:

Benishak amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–234) that reforms and improves the VA Inspector General's ability to report on problems and problem employees at the VA; requires the IG to release reports including employee misconduct to the public and explain what changes the VA has requested, requires the IG to identify a manager responsible for fixing an identified problem, makes it easier to fire an identified employee, and targets the bonuses of employees that fail to solve problems. **Pages H5635–40**

Rejected:

Takano amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–234) that sought to provide VA Secretary the authority to immediately suspend without pay any employee whose performance or misconduct is a threat to health or safety; ensure back pay for whistleblowers unfairly terminated, and cap the payment of administrative leave to 14 days; make effective date of back pay provision October 1, 2015 (by a recorded vote of 191 yeas to 233 noes, Roll No. 487). **Pages H5650–51**

H. Res. 388, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1994) and (H.R. 3236) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 243 yeas to 183 noes, Roll No. 484, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 242 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 483. **Pages H5610–23**

Question of Consideration: The Chair announced that the bill (H.R. 3236) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, contained an emergency designation pursuant to section 4(g)(1) of the Statutory Pay-

As-You-Go Act of 2010. Subsequently, the House agreed to consider H.R. 3236 by voice vote.

Page H5640

Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 3236, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, by a yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas to 34 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 486.

Pages H5640–50

H. Res. 388, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1994) and (H.R. 3236) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 243 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 484, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 242 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 483.

Pages H5621–22

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Monday, July 27th:

First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act: H.R. 1300, amended, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 485.

Page H5623

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

Page H5653

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Shuster wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions to authorize nine alteration projects, two reprogramming prospectuses, two construction prospectuses, and two lease prospectuses, included in the General Services Administration’s FY2015 and FY2016 Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 23, 2015.

Page H5664

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2015—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–53).

Page H5664

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page 5601.

Senate Referrals: S. 614 and S. 242 were held at the desk. S. 764 was referred to the Committee on

Natural Resources. S. Con. Res. 20 was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Page H5761

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5621–22, H5622–23, H5623, H5650, H5651, H5652–53, and H5653. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DODD-FRANK TURNS FIVE: ASSESSING THE PROGRESS OF GLOBAL DERIVATIVES REFORMS

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Dodd-Frank Turns Five: Assessing the Progress of Global Derivatives Reforms”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE REGION OF THE IRAN DEAL

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Potential Implications in the Region of the Iran Deal”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 985, “Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015”; H.R. 3154, “E-Warranty Act of 2015”; H.R. 1344, “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015”; H.R. 1462, “Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015”; H.R. 1725, “National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Authorization Act of 2015”; and H.R. 2820, “Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1462, H.R. 1725, H.R. 2820, and H.R. 3154. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 1344 and H.R. 985.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 766, the “Financial Institution Customer Protection Act of 2015”; H.R. 1210, the “Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act”; H.R. 1317, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; H.R.